



ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for cutting sheet material, includes a freely movable unit having a lower part defining a sheet support surface for placing a piece of sheet material and an upper part defining an upper surface and disposed above the lower part, with a gap existing between the upper and lower parts, and with the lower part receiving the piece of sheet material. A cutting blade is secured in the upper and lower parts and extends across the gap. The sheet support surface and the upper surface extend to either side of the cutting blade. A pressure device is mounted on the upper part, in the gap, for bearing on the piece of sheet material supported by the lower part adjacent to the cutting blade, so that the piece of sheet material is able to be inserted between the pressure device and the sheet support surface for tensioning the piece of sheet material in proximity to the cutting blade.

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